

Message Text

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16

ACTION OPR-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 OS-03 CU-05 AID-07 M-02 A-01

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P 171010Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1032

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 1427

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASCH, SY

SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE FOR DAMASCUS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

1. SUMMARY: THIS TELEGRAM IS BEING SENT TO ALERT OPR/ AS THAT THE EMBASSY WILL SHORTLY BE REQUESTING ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF A GRANT TO ATTEMPT TO BRING SUBJECT SCHOOL UP TO AMERICAN STANDARDS.

PRIOR TO 1967, DAMASCUS COMMUNITY SCHOOL WAS THE AMERICAN SCHOOL USED BY ALL AMERICANS IN SYRIA. AFTER THE AMERICAN DEPARTURE THE SCHOOL WAS TURNED OVER TO THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY AND UNTIL THE PRESENT TIME HAS BEEN OPERATING IN A HOLDING PATTERN. ALL FORMS REQUIRED BY 2 FAM HAVE BEEN FILLED OUT BY THE SCHOOL AND ARE BEING FORWARDED IN THE NEXT POUCH. END SUMMARY.

2. IMMEDIATELY NEEDED AND IN ORDER OF PRIORITY ARE:

A. ADDITIONAL CLASSROOM SPACE.

THE SCHOOL IS PROPOSING AND THE EMBASSY IS CONCURRING THAT THIS IS A MUST REQUIREMENT IF THE SCHOOL IS TO SUPPORT ALL AMERICAN STUDENTS WHO ARE EXPECTED DURING THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. AT PRESENT THE SCHOOL ONLY GOES THROUGH THE 9TH GRADE. CLASSROOM SPACE IS ALREADY FILLED TO OVERFLOWING AND THE SCHOOL WISHES TO ADD GRADE 10 THIS YEAR WITH GRADES UNCLASSIFIED

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11 AND 12 TO FOLLOW. IN ORDER TO COPE WITH THE

ADDITIONAL AMERICANS THIS YEAR AS WELL AS TO EXPAND
IN THE FUTURE THIS ADDITIONAL CLASSROOM SPACE IS
URGENTLY REQUIRED.

B. ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT ARE ALSO NEEDED
TO BRING THE SCHOOL UP TO AMERICAN STANDARDS. THE
SCHOOL HAS ATTEMPTED OVER THE YEARS TO KEEP THE
CURRICULM CURRENT AND IS USING AMERICAN TEXT BOOKS
IN THE CLASSROOMS. HOWEVER, THE SCHOOL IS WOEFULLY
UNADEQUATE IN SCIENCE EQUIPMENT,PHYSICAL EDUCATION
EQUIPMENT AND EDUCATIONAL AIDS.

C. QUALIFICATIONS OF THE PRESENT TEACHERS ARE IN
MANY INSTANCES NOT UP TO AMERICAN STANDARDS, AS OPR/AS
WILL NOTE WHEN FORM FS-573A IS RECEIVED. SCHOOL
REQUESTS AND POST CONCURS THAT A MINIMUM OF TWO
AMERICAN TEACHERS SHOULD BE ADDED TO THE STAFF AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE. AREAS WHERE ADEQUATE TEACHING
FACILITES ARE MOST LACKING ARE SOCIAL SCIENCES,
PHYSICAL EDUCATION, AMERICAN HISTORY AND MATHEMATICS.

3. POST SINCERELY HOPES AND STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT
THE DEPARTMENT WILL ACT FAVOURABLY ON REQUEST FOR
ASSISTANCE IN ORDER TO MAKE ADEQUATE SCHOOLING
FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES WHO WILL
SOON BE POSTED TO DAMASCUS.
SCOTES

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NNN

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